



CARTER HIGH
SENIOR YEAR



SOMEONE TO *Count On*



SADDLEBACK
EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHING



Chapter 1

It was Wednesday. Cruz sat in the lunchroom. He ate lunch with Rey. Cruz was on the baseball team. Rey was on the team too.

Rey's real name was Reynardo. But his friends called him Rey.

Rey said, "The spring dance is next week."

"I know," Cruz said.

"Do you have a date for it?" Rey asked.

Cruz said, "Not yet. But I will as soon as I ask someone."

Cruz knew Rey didn't have a date to the dance. Rey and his girlfriend broke

up. So Rey didn't have a girlfriend now.

"Who are you going to ask?" Rey asked.

"I don't know. I might ask Ana or Paz. Or I might ask someone else," Cruz said.

Then he laughed.

Rey said, "You better hurry and ask someone before it's too late. Then no one will go with you."

Cruz laughed.

Then he said, "I have a lot of time. Don't worry about me. I will have a date. But you might not have a date."

"You are right about that," Rey said.

"Who do you want to take?" Cruz asked.

Cruz didn't really care who Rey wanted to take to the dance. But he had to talk to Rey about something. And Cruz liked to talk about girls.

Rey said, "I want to take Nina."

Cruz knew Nina. She was in a class with him.

Cruz said, "You want to go with Nina. So you should ask her."

"I would ask her. But I don't see her much at school. And I don't have her phone number. So I can't call her," Rey said.

"Too bad. Maybe you will see her soon," Cruz said.

Rey said, "But a lot of boys like Nina. Someone might ask her before I see her. I need her phone number. But I don't know anyone who can get it for me."

"Nina is in a class with me. So I can get her number for you," Cruz said.

Rey seemed surprised.

He asked, "You would do that for me?"

"Sure. Why not? We are friends," Cruz said.

And Cruz didn't want to date Nina.

Rey said, "Thanks, Cruz. I am glad I have a friend I can count on. When do

you have a class with her?”

“After lunch,” Cruz said.

“I sure would like to have her phone number today. Then I could call her tonight. Can you get it for me today?” Rey asked.

“Sure I can,” Cruz said.

“Will you bring it to baseball practice?” Rey asked.

“Sure,” Cruz said.

It wasn’t a big deal.

“Thanks, Cruz. But make sure Nina knows it is for me, not for you,” Rey said.

“I will,” Cruz said. Then he laughed.



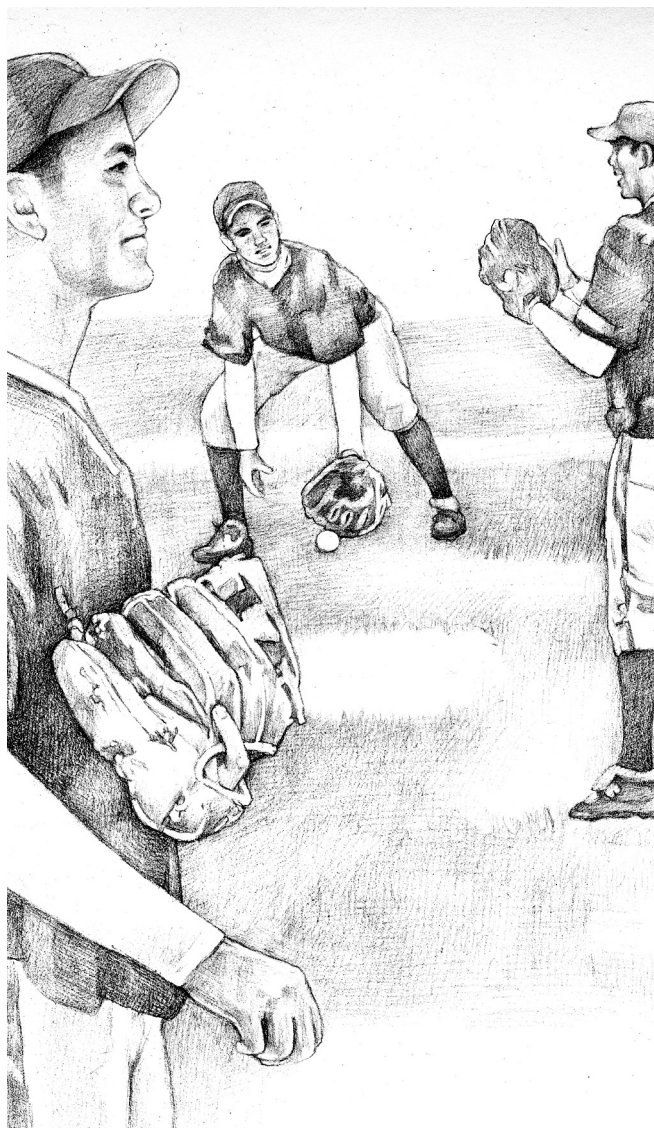
Chapter 2

The school day was over. Cruz was on his way to baseball practice. But he wasn't in a hurry to get there. He didn't want to get there early. He might have to work harder.

Cruz stopped along the way to talk to some girls. Then he went on to practice. He made sure he got there on time.

He saw Rey and Al. They were throwing a ball to each other.

Al was Rey's best friend. His real name was Alberto. But his friends called him Al.



Al was OK. But Cruz didn't think Al liked him very much.

Rey stopped throwing the ball. He ran over to Cruz.

Rey said, "I thought you would never get here. Did you bring it?"

"What?" Cruz asked.

He brought himself. That was all he needed to bring.

Rey said, "Nina's phone number. You said you would get her phone number. You said you would bring it to me at practice."

"I did?" Cruz asked.

He had forgotten all about it. Cruz didn't want to date Nina. So it wasn't like he wanted her number for himself.

Rey looked upset. He said, "You said you would bring me Nina's number. And I thought I could count on you to bring it. You really didn't bring it?" Rey asked.

“No. I forgot to ask her,” Cruz said.

Rey seemed mad.

“It isn’t a big deal,” Cruz said.

“It is to me. I wanted to call her tonight. And now I can’t,” Rey said.

“Nina is only one girl. So ask some other girl,” Cruz said.

Cruz would if he were Rey.

“But I don’t want to date some other girl. I want to date Nina,” Rey said.

“So ask her tomorrow morning at school,” Cruz said.

“I can’t,” Rey said.

Cruz laughed.

Then he asked, “Why? Are you afraid she will say no?”

Rey said, “No, Cruz. I told you. I don’t see her much at school. So I might not see her tomorrow.”

“Yeah. I forgot,” Cruz said.

Rey didn’t say any more. He ran back

over to Al. They started to throw a ball to each other again.

Rey was upset with Cruz. And Cruz didn't know what the big deal was. So he forgot to get Nina's phone number for Rey. She wasn't the only girl at Carter High. Rey could always ask someone else.



Chapter 3

It was the next day. Cruz was at school. He was on his way to class. He saw Paz. He had dated Paz a few times.

Paz smiled at him.

She said, “Hi, Cruz.”

“Hi,” Cruz said.

He stopped to talk to Paz. He was in no hurry to get to class.

Paz said, “I had fun on our last date, Cruz.”

“So did I,” Cruz said.

He knew Paz wanted him to say that.

He was ready to walk on down the hall. But maybe he should say